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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Withdrawn) A method for scavenging radicals in a substance comprising providing said substance with urocanic acid or a functional equivalent thereof.
2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein urocanic acid is transurocanic acid.
3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said substance is aqueous.
4. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said substance comprises a food product or cosmetic product.
5. (Withdrawn) Use of urocanic acid as antioxidant or radical scavenger.
6. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 5 wherein urocanic acid is transurocanic acid.
7. (Withdrawn) Use according to claims 5 or 6 in aqueous solutions.
8. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 7 in preparing a food product or cosmetic product.
9. (Withdrawn) Use of urocanic acid for the preparation of a pharmaceutical

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composition.

10. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 9 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of oxidative stress.

11. (Withdrawn) Use of an oxidation product of urocanic acid for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition.

12. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 11 wherein said product is an photo-oxidation product.

13. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 11 or 12 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for modulating the immune response of an animal.

14. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 11, 12 or 13 wherein said product is an imidazole such as imidazole-4-carboxyaldehyde, imidazole-4-acetic acid or imidazole-4-carboxylic acid.

15. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising urocanic acid or functional equivalent and/or an oxidation product thereof.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of oxidative stress of an animal comprising treating said animal with a pharmaceutical composition comprising urocanic

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acid or functional equivalent thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A method to [modulate] suppress an immune response of an animal in need thereof, comprising providing the animal with an effective amount of a composition comprising a product of oxidation of urocanic acid with a reactive oxygen species or a salt thereof, wherein said oxidation product is an imidazole or imidazolone derivative of urocanic acid.

18 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein the product is an imidazole.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the imidazole is one or more of imidazole-4-carboxaldehyde, imidazole-4-acetic acid, imidazole-4-carboxylic acid, a salt of one of said imidazoles, or a combination thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the animal is a human.

22. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the imidazolone is 3-(4-imidazol-2-yl)-acrylic acid, or 3-(4-imidazol-5-yl)-acrylic acid, or a combination thereof.

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23. (New) A method for reducing contact hypersensitivity in an animal in need of such treatment comprising providing the animal with an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising imidazole-4-carboxaldehyde, imidazole-4-acetic acid, or imidazole-4-carboxylic acid or a combination thereof.

24. (New) A method in accordance with claim 23, wherein the animal is a human.